



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Preparazione al Legal English Certificate

1718-5-A5810105

Learning objectives

The course is designed to introduce students to the key aspects of legal English, including law-specific vocabulary and legal correspondence drafting, as well as to the main legal topics students need to be familiar with.

Contents

Nowadays, proficiency in English plays a vital role in all aspects of the legal profession. A good command of legal English is both an essential academic skill and an absolute “must” for legal professionals to better understand concepts and processes of common law legal systems.

Moreover, knowledge of the English language is a powerful tool for law students to successfully advance through their studies.

The course is thus designed to introduce students to the key aspects of legal English language, including law-specific vocabulary and legal correspondence drafting, as well as to the main topics students need to be familiar with to prepare for the International Legal English Certificates.

Detailed program

The introductory stage of the course will enable students to revise and to further develop their general English language skills and knowledge in order to reach a CEFR B1 level or above. Therefore, the first part of the course will focus on an overall revision of essential grammar rules through a detailed examination of common grammar

and vocabulary mistakes Italian students typically make due to the differences between the two languages.

Lectures will then focus on essential legal English vocabulary in context by a thorough study of the unit topics referred to in the Textbooks and supplementary materials section below.

Finally, basic guidelines for drafting legal correspondence will be illustrated together with a number of practical applications and in-class writing assignments.

The final exam may only be taken by students who attended at least 80% of the classes.

Prerequisites

The minimum requirement is a level of general English of at least B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. At the beginning of the course, students will be provided with materials they can use to self-assess their entry-level knowledge and skills.

Teaching methods

Reading and translation of the texts suggested in the programme. Listening, writing and speaking activities.

Assessment methods

The final exam is a 60-minute written examination consisting of an email writing assignment and two/three matching or gap-filling exercises to test legal vocabulary knowledge.

Students are allowed to use monolingual or bilingual dictionaries during the email writing task.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Absolute Legal English: English for International Law, Helen Callanan, Lynda Edwards, Delta Publishing, 2010, Units 3, 4 and 7.

Legal English, G. Di Renzo Villata (edited by), R. Buzzi, G. Cadel, A. Grasso, Cedam, Padova, 2011, Units 2 and 4.

Recommended bilingual dictionary

Dizionario di Inglese Giuridico (Dictionary of Legal English), S. De Palma (edited by), A. Grasso, J. Schorah, Filodiritto Editore, Bologna, 2012.
